



Climate change and infectious diseases in Australia

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Abstract:

The mechanisms of global climate change are the subject of extended debate, but the fact that it is happening and our major part in its causation are generally accepted. The potential link between climate change and disease risk has been widely reported and reflects a growing concern about the health impacts of global warming. In the last decade analysis of detailed epidemiological, geographical and meteorological data has improved substantially, generating new insights into the interaction between complex weather systems and human disease. Some notable correlations between weather systems and specific infectious diseases have already been described, such as the correlation between the El Niño Southern Oscillation and cholera in Bangladesh. Smaller scale events, such as a possible association between El Niño and outbreaks of highland malaria, are more difficult to attribute to climate change. The effects of changing weather systems are difficult to show conclusively when non-climate factors such as human population density, migration and insect vector dynamics add to the risk of disease.

Source: <http://www.australianprescriber.com/magazine/32/3/58/9>

Resource Description

Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional, Researcher

Early Warning System: ☒

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

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Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Quality, Temperature

Food/Water Quality: Pathogen, Pathogen

Temperature: Fluctuations

Geographic Feature: ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location: ☒

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Australasia

Health Impact: ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Respiratory Effect

Infectious Disease: Airborne Disease, Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease

Airborne Disease: Influenza, Other Airborne Disease

Airborne Disease (other): Legionella

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, E. coli, Giardiasis, Norovirus, Rotavirus, Salmonellosis

Vectorborne Disease: Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Barmah Forest Virus, Dengue, Malaria, Ross River Virus, Viral Encephalitis, Viral Encephalitis, Other Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease (other): Kunjin Encephalities

Respiratory Effect: Bronchitis/Pneumonia, Other Respiratory Effect

Respiratory Condition (other) : Legionella

Medical Community Engagement: ☒

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☒

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Resource Type: ☒

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format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Resilience:

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content